

EXCISE

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SUBJECT Constitution of the People's Democratic Party  
of Afghanistan

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Attached is the Embassy's translation of the "Constitution  
of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan."

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Enclosure  
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Constitution of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan  
(the party of the Working Class of Afghanistan)

The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan:

Article 1: The PDPA is the highest political organ and the vanguard of the working class and all laborers in Afghanistan. The PDPA, whose ideology is the practical experience of Marxist-Leninism, is founded on the voluntary union of the progressive and informed people of Afghanistan: the workers, peasants, artisans, and intellectuals of the country.

Membership

Conditions of Membership

Article 2: Any Afghan subject who has reached the age of 18 and has not acted against the interests and freedom of the people; who accepts the ideological objectives and constitution of the Party and struggles for its realization; who participates and works in one of the active party organizations; who observes and executes the resolutions and decisions of the party and accepts the terms of membership can become a member of the party.

Acceptance of Membership in the Party

Article 3: The conditions of acceptance for membership in the Party are as follows:

(a) Acceptance of membership can only take place on an individual basis through the constituency (i.e. cell). The Central Committee in exceptional cases can accept the group membership of candidates.

(b) Confirmation of membership is granted by the Central Committee or an official authorized by it (to do so).

(c) A candidate for membership must be introduced by two full members of the Party who have served a minimum of one year in the party. The sponsors must be thoroughly

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Committee or an official authorized by them to do so. The distribution of membership cards is subject to conditions and circumstances.

Duties of Party Members

Article 5: Every Party member is responsible for:

(a) raising his own ideological awareness and learning the political theories of Marxist-Leninism; endeavoring to strengthen ideological solidarity, party organization and unity (lit. correlation and harmony); combatting any action that, either within or outside the Party, harms the interests of the Party; rejecting enemies of the workers, the People's Party, and the nation; and struggling against colonialism and all social and national difficulties.

(b) observing the Party constitution, regulations, and discipline; disseminating and propagating the general and current party objectives and policies among the people and striving for their realization.

(c) participating regularly in the activities of the relevant organizations; acting sincerely, decisively, forcefully, and without deviation for the party's aims, objectives, goals, and (in accord with) instructions; paying the membership fees regularly; holding comradely party functions among members; and creating within the Party a spirit of comradeship, cooperation, and brotherhood.

(d) propagating the thoughts of scientific socialism, the ideas of proletarian rationalism and internationalism among the masses.

(e) struggling to strengthen the unity of the masses, toilers, and brothers resident in our unique country of Afghanistan in the cause of complete equality of rights, the brotherly cooperation of all the people, tribes, and ethnic groups of Afghanistan, both large and small, and for

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their solidarity within the organizations of the laborers, both political organizations (the party of the entire proletariat of Afghanistan) and workers, peasants, cooperatives, cultural, women's, youth, and student's unions.

(f) expanding and strengthening the friendly relations between Afghans and the Soviets (lit. Afghan/Soviet friendly relations) and such relations between Afghanistan and the socialist fraternity, international worker's movements, peoples' liberation movements of Asia, Africa, and Latin American; and fulfilling Afghanistan's nationalist and internationalist duties.

(g) setting an example in encounters with people of being sincere, humble, diligent, and accomplished, and in one's own personal and social life of being progressive in speech and deed: knowing the wishes of the people and striving for the influence and esteem of the party among the people.

(h) Attracting the informed and active elements of all classes and the laborers to the party and giving them instruction about the Party's structure and organization.

(i) protecting the Party's secrets stringently and at all times being vigilant and firm against infiltrators; and defending the party against the influence of anti-populist elements and deviationists.

(j) Developing and expanding criticism (in general) and self-criticism and correcting and pursuing mistakes that veer from the path of true criticism.

(k) combatting from within the party all manifestations and inclinations toward factionalism, splinter groups, regionalism, chauvanism, local nationalism, revisionism, demagogy, any kind of rightist or leftist opportunism, liberalism, and subjectivism. Giving priority to the interests

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of the Party and the people. Being honest and correct ~~show~~ toward the party and people. In choosing an individual for party duties and responsibilities, taking into consideration their ability, honesty, quality, awareness, and class background (lit. character).

Rights of Party Members

Article 6: Every Party Member has the right to:

(a) participate in elections of party officials as and elector or electee.

(b) (participate) in debates and resolution of problems concerning the policies and scientific activities of the Party, in party sessions and publications. Until the relevant Party organizations and officials take a decision on a matter under discussion, active participation and free expression will be allowed.

(c) have their suggestions, ~~and~~ criticisms, and questions passed to Party authorities including the Central Committee. Inside the sessions of the organizations a member, whatever his position, may criticize the actions of party officials.

(d) Participate in all sessions where actions or deeds or methods are under scrutiny. Whenever the aims of the Party authorities are not deemed wise or methodical and are subject to protest, a member can present his complaints to the higher Party authorities including the Congress.

Note (1): Under certain conditions it is possible for a party member to investigate actions or deeds.

Note (2): Under certain conditions it is possible for a Party member to be denied permission to attend a meeting at which his own actions are being investigated.

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The Structure of Party Organizations (Organs)

Article 7: The main principle and guidelines of the structure of the PDPA is democratic centralism whose basic features are as follows:

- (a) Party leaders from the highest to the lowest levels are elected through an open ballot or a closed ballot when necessary.
- (b) The presentation of a report by party officials to relevant organizations and to a higher Party authority. (unclear, perhaps incomplete)
- (c) Adherence of the minority to the majority on party decisions and instructions and the strict observance of Party discipline by all individuals in all positions.
- (d) Adherence of lower officials to the decisions of higher officials
- (e) Enforcement of collective basic leadership and individual responsibility.

Article 8: Party leaders from the highest to the lowest level must avoid individualistic and bureaucratic methods. A logical proportion between Party centralism and democracy is to be preserved based on the difficulty of party activities and the spread of criticism against the party. Incorrect methods of action are to be eliminated. In the performance of duties, initiative, creativity, and informed discipline are to be shown among party members. Any manifestation of liberalism, troublemaking, personality cults, splinter groups, or internal party factions that in any shape or form appear within the party are to be prevented and centralism, linked to democracy, is to be established and strengthened.

Article 9: The competence and responsibility of the Party leadership may be expanded as required by the necessity of furthering the Party's affairs and protecting Party organizations. The appointment of a position of senior officials or

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individuals at all levels who, in principle, have been elected, can be made. The relevant authorities may take the following points into consideration:

(a) the correct method of procedure on utilizing the cadres and party officials should be based on basic performance, ability, and awareness in relevant matters and political reliance on these--not on personal considerations and inclinations.

(b) the organization responsible for Party vigilance can in no way permit destructive elements to influence the party.

(c) complete precision in regard to the views and suggestions of party members.

(d) Precise and correct implementation of the decisions of Party authorities.

Article 10: The organizational divisions of the Party are as follows:

Provincial, urban (lit. city), voluswali (district), and <sup>district</sup> regional organizations. Under certain circumstances, on the recommendation of the Provincial committee and the agreement of the Central Committee, other organizations can also be established. Any one of these organizations can take decisions on local problems provided that they do not defy general party policies and the decisions of their superiors authorities. The limits of the actions of any one of these groups is set by higher authorities.

The Highest Party Authority

The Party Congress

Article 11: The highest Party authority of the PDPA is the Party Congress which is comprised of representatives elected by provincial conferences. In normal circumstances, the Party Congress will meet once every four years. If necessary or in unusual circumstances, it is possible for

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the Central Committee to decide to invite the Congress to assemble earlier or later than the appointed time. An Extraordinary Party Congress may take place on the decision of the Central Committee or on the basis of a proposal by two-thirds of the Party members. The Congress is officially competent only when a majority of elected members, that is to say more than one-half of the party representatives, are present at a session. A number of Congress representatives, proportional to the number of Party members and relevant organizations, are appointed to the Central Committee.

Article 12: The duties and jurisdiction of the Party Congress consist of:

(a) hearing the report of the Central Committee and the Central Supervisory Commission, debating and assessing their findings, and ratifying them.

(b) revising, reforming, changing, and ratifying the Party's objectives and constitution.

(c) setting party policy

(d) electing full and ~~alternate~~ alternate members to the Central Committee and Central Supervisory Commission.

(e) establishing the number of full and alternate members of the Central Committee and Central Supervisory Commission.

The Central Committee

Article 14: The Central Committee of the Party is the highest authority after the Party Congress.

The Central Committee during the period between two Congress meetings is responsible for relations with other parties and political organizations. The Central Committee, while accountable to the Congress, leads and administers the political establishment and activity and organization of the Party; and is responsible for the financial administration, overseeing the publication of Party organs publications, and Parliamentary party (participation ?) in the Parliament (?).

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Article 14: The Central Committee is responsible for organizing subordinate organizations, party committees, and party members in setting up relevant organizations, that is mass organizations such as workers unions, peasants, artisans, cooperatives, unions for low-ranking officials, teachers, lecturers, doctors, students, youth and women, cultural and sports clubs, etc. If any such organizations are founded by other organizations it is essentially in line with Party policy to actively participate in the former.

Article 15: If for any reason the place of some full time member of the Central Committee is vacated or if it becomes necessary for the number of Central Committee members to be increased by a fixed number, then the Central Committee can by a two-thirds majority vote appoint to full membership any of its substitute members.

However, if necessary or in extraordinary cases the Central Committee is empowered to appoint from outstanding individuals in the Party Membership to full membership in the Central Committee or alternate membership. The basic condition in appointing or electing full or alternate members of the Central Committee is that they have at least two years of previous Party service.

Article 16: The Central Committee can choose from its own members the members of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and members of the Secretariat of the Central Committee and the General Secretary of the Central Committee, who is also a member of the Political Bureau.

Article 17: The Plenum of the Central Committee in order to form the Second Congress of the PDPA and to elect the Central Supervisory Commission elects from the Congress as full and alternate members, the Supervisory and Control

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Commission, and its officials.

Article 18: The Central Committee as necessary sets up branch organizations for propaganda, theory and education, finance, international affairs, and mass organizations. The Central Committee can also as necessary set up other branches and commissions, either permanent or temporary. The officials of these commissions elect the political bureau from the full members of the Central Committee.

Article 19: The Plenum of the Central Committee will, under normal circumstances, meet at least three times a year. Alternate members will participate in the Plenum of the Central Committee and will have the right to a consultative vote.

Article 20: The Central Committee can raise for free discussion and party advice some of the Party's problems.

Article 21: The Political Bureau in the period between Central Committee meetings administers and heads the Party's activities and affairs, and is responsible to the Central Committee.

Article 22: The Central Committee Secretariat during the period between the meetings of the Political Bureau undertakes the current affairs of the Central Committee. The Secretariat prepares the ways and means of carrying out the decisions of the supreme authorities of the Party leadership and supervises and researches their precise execution. The Secretariat is responsible to the Political Bureau. The Commissions and Departments of the Central Committee operate, execute, and serve under the supervision of the Secretariat.

The Central Supervisory and Control Commission

Article 23: The Central Supervisory and Control Commission has the following duties:

(a) Supervision of the current affairs of the Central organs.

(b) Supervision over the Central Committee's financial affairs.

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(c) ensuring the observance of full party discipline and members and probationary members to party discipline and unity and correct execution of Central Committee decisions; and taking action against those party members who infringe the Party's objectives, constitution, regulations or code.

(d) Investigation into the general complaints of party members from party organizations sentenced to be punished and seeking litigation.

#### Party Conferences

Article 24: During the period between two Congresses, the Central Committee can invite Party conferences formed of representatives of the committees of Provincial, Urban, woluwalli, and <sup>district</sup> regional organizations, to debate and discuss problems relating to the practical policies and other essential problems. The Central Committee appoints a number of its representatives.

Provincial, Urban, Woluwalli, and <sup>District</sup> Regional Organizations

Article 25: Provincial, Urban, woluwalli, <sup>district</sup> and regional organizations are to be guided in their actions by the objectives and constitution of the Party. They are to propagate party policies and execute all decisions and instructions of the Central Committee and their own superior authorities. be it provincial, urban, woluwalli, or <sup>district</sup> region. The basic duties of the Provincial, urban, woluwalli, and regional organizations and their leading officials consist of:

(a) organizational and political work among the masses.

(b) striving to realize the objectives and goals of the party and raising the level of political and class awareness of the workers and actively participating in the organization of the masses.

(c) regulating ideological work, propagating practical

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